

Flight Jacket

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Aviation Museum opens doors

Flying Leatherneck Museum dedicated to vintage warbirds of aviation history, now home to over 40 military aircraft

By Cpl. Carolyn S. Sittig

PAO, MCAS Miramar

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Flying Leatherneck Museum opened its doors during a dedication ceremony here, May 25. Marines both past and present, including Major Generals William G. Bowdon, Commander, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area, and M.P. DeLong, Commanding General, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, and numerous other distinguished guests gathered for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The museum consists of 41 vintage military aircraft, a gift shop and a host of his-

torical exhibits. Some marvels people can see at the museum include a female Marines display, a twin-engine B-25 "Mitchell," the F-4 "Phantom," and many others.

In the next few years, much expansion is planned for the facility, according to Tom O'Hara, museum curator. This construction will include clearing the recreational vehicle lot on station to make room to build a library, a 30,000-square-foot hangar and office spaces for the museum. Until the lot can be cleared, a 10,000-square-foot K-span will hold

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photo by Cpl. Carolyn S. Sittig

The dedication ceremony for the Flying Leatherneck Museum was celebrated with the help of the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing band, a color guard and numerous distinguished guests were also present.

DoD adapts off-the-shelf technology

By Linda D. Kozaryn

Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Mix a little new commercial technology into an existing weapon system and the result could be military equipment that's more efficient and less costly to operate.

The DoD and corporate America are adapting off-the-shelf technology to improve military planes, helicopters and other weapon systems. DoD's Commercial Operations and Support Savings Initiative, or COSSI, provides seed money so civilian industry can insert technology into what are known as "legacy" systems.

The DoD initiative leverages private sector research and development to reduce operations and support costs, according to Rich Mirsky, who heads COSSI at DoD's defense research and engineering office here. The program also promotes civil and military integration and supports acquisition reform, he said.

COSSI is a two-stage process. First, DoD funds the nonrecurring engineering, testing and qualification needed to adapt a commercial item for military use. Then, selected contractors develop, manufacture and deliver prototypes to military customers for installation into fielded DoD systems.

Since 1997, DoD has invested about \$160 million on nearly 60 projects while more than 100 private industry contractors invested \$117 million. Defense officials estimate the projects will result in \$4 billion in operation and support cost savings over a 12-year period.

One project, for example, involves adapting a commercial health and usage monitoring system for use in military helicopters. Mirsky said the adapted system would help identify problems quicker and reduce flight tests. The system will create a database by collecting in-

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MCM Staff visits exchanges to offer 2000 race entries

Courtesy of
Jennifer Robinson

Marine Corps Marathon Public
Relations Coordinator

The Marine Corps Marathon's staff will visit Marine Corps Exchanges throughout the United States and on Okinawa, Japan, as part of "MCM Goodwill Tour 2000."

As a way of thanking Marines and their families for their support since the race started, the MCM staff has 925 bib numbers to be raffled off during the tour. "We wanted to thank the Marines who have given 25 years of service and support to their marathon," said Rick Nealis, the race's director. "This way, they will get a second chance to enter the 6th largest marathon in the nation." Registration was closed 96 hours after it opened, which meant many Marines may not be able to officially participate in the "The People's Marathon"

See **MCM**, Page 9

A resounding salute!



photo by Staff Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

Cannoneer, Lance Cpl. Sean Larson fires a restored 40mm deck gun on the flight line near Station Operations during a Memorial Day 21-gun salute. Assisting is Lance Cpl. David R. Wieneke, ammunition handler. Nearly 30 service members, family members and civilians attended the ceremony, which began a few minutes before noon, continuing one shot per

minute. Marines from Station Ordinance have performed this ceremony four times annually since Miramar became a Marine Corps Air Station, Oct. 1, 1997. Occasions for the ceremony are the Fourth of July, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day and Veterans' Day, according to Staff Sgt. Roosevelt L. Simmons, gun crew Staff NCOIC.

Flight Jacket



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3d Marine Aircraft Wing

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Eight 3d MAW squadrons claim CNO safety awards

By Cpl. Carolyn S. Sittig

PAO, MCAS Miramar

Eight 3d Marine Aircraft Wing squadrons were recently recognized for their outstanding safety for fiscal year 1999.

Miramar based Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons 232 and 323, Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadrons 465 and 466, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 and Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367 were the recipients of Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award for 1999.

"Attainment of this award recognizes those select organizations that exemplify the most professional, highly skilled and combat-ready squadrons, a proactive, all-hands commitment to the pricelessness of safety, top quality leadership and a superb airmanship resulted in this record and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service," said Admiral J.L. Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations.

This award was given to 61 Navy and Marine squadrons for 1999, said John Cataldo, with the Naval Aviation Safety Center. This is a difficult award to earn and one that roughly 23 percent of Navy and Marine Corps squadrons receive. Both Navy and Marine Corps aviation squadrons are eligible for this award. Selection of the winners is based on the following criteria: aircraft flight, flight-related mishap rates, ground mis-



photo by Cpl. Carolyn S. Sittig

Cpl. Donald Townsend, a Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron crew chief shows the squadron's dedication to safety as he wears his cranial and neck strap protecting his head, while he inspects a CH-53 tail rotor blade. HMH-465 is one of eight 3d MAW squadrons recognized for their outstanding safety for 1999 by the Chief of Naval Operations.

haps, flight exposure, quality of mishap reports, time and number of aircraft embarked aboard a ship or deployed away from home, contributing to the Naval Aviation Safety program's, overall appraisal of aircraft controlling personnel.

With frequent deployments and numerous training exercises, many squadrons have to be ready to go at a moments notice, yet being ready and safe is something squadron's like these have accomplished. The "Red Devils" stood out after receiving this award for the third consecutive year. Winning this award was a challenge they were prepared for by instilling an aggressive safety policy, putting an emphasis on personal responsibil-

ity and treating Marines as intelligent individuals, said Maj. Oliver Jenkins, VMFA-232 pilot and safety officer.

"The Marines and Sailors of these squadrons demonstrated safe mission accomplishment during numerous and diverse deployments around the world. This award is indicative of a highly effective, command sponsored safety program and dedicated, safety conscious Marines and Sailors. These Marines and Sailors are commended for their noteworthy accomplishment and outstanding contributions toward safe operations," said Maj. Gen. M.P. DeLong, commanding general 3d Marine Aircraft Wing in a message.

Respite for raptors!



photo by Cpl. Carolyn S. Sittig

(From left to right) Maggie Scher, animal health technician for "Helping Our Wildlife," Jim Carrey, HOWL President and Cpl. D'ion Johnson, COMCABWEST G-1 administration clerk, hold a Great Horned Owl, so Johnson can listen to its

heartbeat prior to the owl's transition into a temporary cage. From the temporary cage, this owl and two others will be placed in the cage for four days until they can be released into the wild. The owls were rescued from two hangars here.

Thanks to the Internet U.S. troops are winning the battle against homesickness

Courtesy of Wendy Desabaye

People2People.com

BOSTON – Lonely corporals? Disheartened officers? To-day there is a remedy for these military maladies – the Internet.

United States troops can log on to the Internet from wherever they are stationed and get in touch with the people and places they care about. Even better ... many of the sites that combat homesickness are free.

Many Internet sites, like television stations, generate revenue from advertisers, not from users. "People love the fact that our membership is free," says Brad Mindich, president of People2People.com, the largest online relationship community.

"But just important as our free membership is our database of nearly one million members worldwide, and our more than 15 years of experience in the relationships field," Mindich added.

Here are just a few free sites that provide US military troops with the tools to battle loneliness and homesickness:

- **WhoWhere.com** has a "personals" section that allows people to join for free. Members can make new friends by browsing the profiles and photos of other members.

- **Yahoo.com** lets users set up free email accounts. Free email makes it easy for the staff sergeant in Georgia to stay in touch with her brother stationed in upstate New York.

- **Localfreepress.com** allows access to local newspapers from all 50 states. So the private stationed in California can check the scores of his hometown football team back in Pennsylvania.

- **Broadcast.com** allows the Internet user to listen to their favorite radio stations on the web. For New Yorkers who miss Z100's morning show, this site is the answer.

While it's true that "there's no place like home," the Internet can bring home closer – as close as the nearest computer. The click of a mouse is the greatest weapon the military has ever had in the war against homesickness. And with more Internet technology emerging everyday, these maladies could soon be a thing of the past.

DoD forum to spotlight military families

By Linda D. Kozaryn

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A first-of-its-kind Military Family Forum, hosted by Defense Secretary William S. Cohen and his wife, Janet Langhart Cohen, is slated for May 31 at the Pentagon.

About 100 military family members, 68 active duty and 32 reserve, from throughout the services will meet with the Cohens and top defense leaders. DoD officials say the day-long conference is designed to promote grassroots communication and exchange quality of life “best practices” around the globe.

Good quality of life is essential to military morale and readiness, according to Cohen. DoD’s overall goal is to build strong, cohesive communities and career commitment. DoD’s challenge is to balance mission demands with support programs that provide respite, build morale and develop a strong sense of community. The forum provides family members an opportunity to talk directly to the secretary and his wife. Forum topics include health care, housing, pay and compensation, child and youth services, education, operations tempo, spousal employment, family support and readiness, relocation, and retiree and survivor benefits.

The conference will underscore quality of life achievements to date and focus attention on some key challenges facing the military. The forum will conclude with a dinner for the family members hosted by the Cohens and attended by members of Congress. The DoD’s Office of Family Policy recently compiled statistics giving an overview of the “military family.” Officials said the data show much progress has been made in the area of child care and other family concerns, but much more remains to be done.

- About 55 percent of the military’s 1.4 million active duty members are married, and about 46 percent of active duty members have children.

- Nearly 40 percent of the nearly 1.3 million children with military parents are under

age 6.

- Military members marry and have children younger than civilian counterparts, DoD officials said.

- About 6 percent of active duty members are single parents. About 8 percent provide some level of support for elder relatives.

- Commanders responding to an August 1999 DoD survey rated financial management, indebtedness, spousal employment, parenting skills and spousal abuse as their top family support concerns.

- While U.S. military forces are located throughout the world, about 82 percent are stationed within the United States. Nearly 56 percent of active duty members in the United States live off base; about 63 percent of those overseas live on base.

- A 1998 Rand Corp. study concluded that one-fifth of enlisted service members felt financially squeezed. One-quarter of enlisted personnel reported having received food stamps, welfare or other public assistance in the past year.

- DoD officials say spousal employment affects retention, the need for child care, and the need for relocation and financial management assistance. About 63 percent of junior enlisted spouses work outside the home, most say to provide basic necessities.

- Military families move twice as often as civilian counterparts, and the government typically reimburses them only half to two-thirds of the costs they incur.

- More than 100,000 family members with special health or educational needs are enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program.

- About 10,000 children receive special education services from DoD schools; another 2,000 developmentally delayed infants and toddlers participate in early intervention programs.

In his 1999 Military Family Week message President Clinton said: “Our military families are the heart of our nation’s armed forces.” DoD officials said the military family forum is an opportunity for military families to be heard.

Passing the sword – *Enlisted leadership changes hand*



photo by Cpl. Carolyn S. Sittig

Sgt. Maj. Valentin Guerrero, new Marine Aircraft Group 11 sergeant major, accepts the noncommissioned officer’s sword from Col. Terry G. Robling, MAG-11 commanding officer, during a post and relief ceremony in Hangar 2 here May 31. The ceremony marked the end of Sgt. Maj. Michael G. Markiowicz, former MAG-11 sergeant major, and the beginning of Guerrero’s.

Mud runners gear up for 7th annual Camp Pendleton Mud Run

The 7th annual Camp Pendleton Mud Run is June 17 at Lake O’Neil on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. The race is open to both civilians and servicemembers. The race consists of a 10-kilometer course over rugged terrain filled with slippery training obstacles ranging from waist-deep water and six-foot walls to bared wire. Runners will have to negotiate the Nike Reservoir Run, Jack in the Box Combat Town, the Weyerhaeuser Wall and the AT&T River Run. The Gillette/USPA&IRA Ultimate Insult challenges runners to crawl under wires to reach the finish line, while assuring every racer gets down and dirty.

The Mud Run is the biggest even in the 2000 Camp Pendleton Race Series. More than 5,000 people participated in last year’s mud run. The race has become such a prime event that this year, there will a limitation on the number of runner allowed to compete. The 3,500-runner cap will ease congestion both on the course and with traffic.

Competitors may race either individually or as a team. The team categories include: all-male, all-female, co-ed, corporate, police and fire teams. The individual runner will compete in their age categories. There is also the Boots and Utilities category requiring military boots and camouflage utilities and an open category with no restrictions on clothing foot wear. Many runners come in costume and from various countries. Last year participants came from Germany, Japan, Austria and Canada. They also received media coverage from their countries.

The fabulous Ruddies will be at the 2000 Mud Run, performing from 10 a.m.-12:00 p.m. A DJ will provide music. The Mud Run Festival Area will be filled with music, food and contests, including the nationally renown Timex Eye Control Challenge.

Because registration is limited, interested personnel should register early. Registration can be done on-line at www.active.com or www.mccscamp Pendleton.com. For more information, call (760) 725-6836 or (760) 725-6195.



Official USA photo

French civilians erected this cross for an American soldier who died during the Normandy landings.

DoD honors World War II vets at National D-Day Museum opening

By Jim Garamone

Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is taking advantage of the opening of the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans to honor World War II veterans.

Officials expect 7,000 to 15,000 World War II veterans to attend opening ceremonies June 6, the 56th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy.

The museum, a private, nonprofit organization affiliated with the University of New Orleans' Eisenhower Center, will highlight all the D-Days of World War II. Officials said there were 34 opposed amphibious landings in Africa, the Mediterranean and the Pacific during the war. The museum is the brainchild of historian Stephen E. Ambrose, best-selling author of "Undaunted Courage" and "Citizen Soldiers."

"I think the D-Day events of World War II ... (are) a great way for us to focus on the contributions of what Tom Brokaw refers to as our 'greatest generation,'" said Charles Cragin, acting assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs and the DoD coordinator of the event. "These were men who went in harm's way, demonstrated indomitable spirit

and dedication, and understood they were fighting to make people free."

Cragin said Congress felt it was important for the Department of Defense to support this activity. "It's really one of the last events to recognize and honor those men and women who fought in World War II," he said. DoD will provide ceremonial and logistic support. Thousands of U.S. military and DoD civilian personnel will participate, said officials.

Events built around the museum opening begin June 3 with a World War II re-enactment and living history encampment at the Marconi Meadow in City Park. That night, a USO Show and Swing Dance is scheduled at the Fairmont Hotel.

On June 4, there is an international naval port visit. "Many of the World War II Allies will send vessels to this," Cragin said. U.S. Navy and Coast Guard vessels will also participate. The battle flags of the Army and Marine divisions that participated in the amphibious operations of World War II will pass in review for veterans June 4 at 8:30 p.m. in the Flags of Honor Ceremony in Woldenburg Park. Several military bands will participate

See **Vets**, Page 9



Sergeant Major's Corner



Courtesy of Sgt. Maj. Ira J. Lott

MCABWA Sergeant Major

The article below was forwarded to me from Mr. Joseph Venable. It's worth the read Devildogs!

Ready for Duty?

A gunnery sergeant was sitting at his desk just down the hall from the CO's office at Camp Lejeune, N.C. As the Gunny finished his second cup of coffee after reviewing the last of the morning messages, the CO stepped into his office.

"Gunny," the Captain said, "I hate to ask you this, but you need to be in CAX six days from now for a six week op. "Can you go?" With no emotion in his voice or without even looking up, the Gunny replied, "I put on my uniform this morning, didn't I?"

The CO was a little taken back by the Gunny's response because he wasn't one to talk in riddles. The CO thought to himself, "Has this veteran of 15 years finally gone off the deep end on me?" The wise old protector of the enlisted Corps smiled and began to explain. "Sir, I made a promise to myself more than 15 years ago that I would only put this uniform on as long as I'm available and ready to do the duty it requires of me."

While this story may be obvious to many Marines, it seems to completely escape others. Available for duty means more than negotiating premium assignments and TAD's, or scheming to get a suite versus a regular billeting room, and how much time off you can muster out of those tours. Available for duty really means we are ready to go any place in the world we are required at any time.

Recently, I've seen some Marines spending more time and energy getting out of an assignment or duty than it would have taken to just suck it up and do it. Thinking back on Marines that have come before, I reviewed some history and we talked about the

Marines who were at Belleau Wood and Iwo Jima. I'm glad they weren't worried about assignments, billeting rooms vs. suites, and time off. Many of those warriors sacrificed a great deal. Some gave the ultimate sacrifice to obtain and ensure the freedoms we often take for granted today. Their approach may have seemed overly simplistic. However, when it comes to defining service to our country, the answer is just that simple. Those Marines were available for duty and they did their jobs well.

In today's world of what can you do for me, it's easy to lose sight of what service before self is all about. Service goes far beyond the individual, it effects the well being of our nation.

Sitting in Camp Pendleton, enjoying our great American way of life, it's easy to forget the sacrifices we have agreed to endure in the service of our country. When deployed to the desert, Kosovo, Bosnia, or afloat, the sacrifices become much clearer.

If a single member doesn't pull his or her weight, another member is forced to fill the slot causing a ripple effect felt not only at our base, but throughout our Marine Corps. These slots must be filled by people available and ready for duty. Everyone's families would like them to be home for the holidays, birthday parties and anniversaries. I can't think of anyone who would intentionally miss those things. Many of us are well aware of the pain felt when we lose a loved one and the grief that's compounded by the fact we weren't there in the final moments. Military members are asked to sacrifice all of this continuously.

We must remember we are serving our country as volunteers - not forced to do it. I believe each of us as true professionals need to take a good look in the mirror and ask, "Am I available for duty?" Everyone must decide for himself or herself, just as the gunnery sergeant. I too put on my uniform today and I am available for duty.



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Innovators keep 15th MEU (SOC) cool with new water chillers

by Cpl. William Hawkins

PAO, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable)

15TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT (SPECIAL OPERATIONS CAPABLE), — “You improvise, you adapt, you overcome,” a fictional motion picture gunnery sergeant once growled to a platoon of reconnaissance Marines.

This aptly describes a handful of Marines from Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group 15, currently deployed with the 15th MEU (Special Operations Capable), who, instead of constantly fixing a deficient piece of equipment, re-invented and manufactured a new one to takes its place.

The unforgiving equipment is the Marine Corps Small Mobile Water Chiller (SMWC). Its purpose is as simple as its name, to chill water for Marines to drink in hot environments. However, it doesn’t work very well, according to Capt. Geoffrey S. Peters, 26, Fairfax, Va. In fact, most of the time the SMWC didn’t work at all. Not a single SMWC operated consistently during the last 15th MEU(SOC) deployment.

”They’re unreliable and maintenance intensive,” said Peters, the engineer officer for MSSG-15. “They work good when they run, but they don’t run very often.”

The SMWC needed to be replaced. Peters started making phone calls and discovered there is no commercial market for water chillers. So he sat down with Sgt. Jason Parrish, an Indianapolis native, and basic hygiene equipment operator with MSSG-15,

and Marines from the Hygiene Equipment section to compile a list of the features a new water chiller would need. They came up with these specifics:

- It must be able to cool water 60-degrees below the ambient temperature
- Electric power (the SMWC has a gasoline engine that requires maintenance)
- Better compressors and pumps
- Cheaper price tag
- Automatic cutoff features
- Two sizes, a large for the 450-gallon M-49 Water Bull and 900-gallon Six-Cons, and a small one for five-gallon water cans.

They made a few more calls and found a San Diego-based company called Aquanetics. The Marines presented the list to them and Aquanetics produced a design within a month that could deliver.

Aquanetics built two prototypes, a large and a small. The large circulates water through freezing coils and the small has a freezing wand that drops into a can.

The hygiene equipment Marines inspected them and provided more insight. On Jan.22, two days before the MEU deployed, the Marines picked up two large chillers and six small. Each one was several thousand dollars cheaper than the SMWC.

The true test for the chillers came when the Marines landed in Kuwait April 1 for Operation Eager Mace. The temperature reached above the 100-degree mark but the water stayed cool. A large chiller can cool a water bull in two to three hours and a small can chill a five-gallon can in 20 minutes, depending on the temperature. At night the

large chiller can bring the water to freezing temperature.

“I think it’s a life saver. If it wasn’t for these commercial chillers there would be no cold water,” said 26-year-old Parrish, who was awarded a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his part, “Last cycle they had six (SMWC) chillers and they all broke down.”

The easily transported small water chillers allowed Marines out on the ranges to have cold water. The weight difference between the new chillers and the SMWC is dramatic. The SMWC weighs in at 1200 pounds while the new chillers are a slender 150 pounds for the large version and 35 pounds for the small.

The stripped-down, no frills design is much more maintenance friendly as well. Only one new chiller malfunctioned and it took 15 minutes to repair it. This is due in part to the easy availability of parts from the manufacture.

The new chillers are not perfect. Parrish would like them to run on the standard 110-volt system instead of the current 220-volt power the chillers use. The frame tubing needs to be a thicker gauge, it could use a



photo by Cpl. William Hawkins

Sgt. Jason Parrish, 26, Indianapolis, basic hygiene equipment operator with MEU Service Support Group 15, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), cleans a water chiller that he, along with other Marines from his section, helped invent to replace the older, Small Mobile Water Chiller. The new chillers can bring water to freezing temperature in desert environments and are several thousand dollars cheaper than the SMWC. The 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) is currently deployed to the Arabian Gulf aboard the ships of the USS Bonhomme Richard Amphibious Ready Group.

little more ventilation and drain ports, he said, but they’re still in the prototype stage. After a few more revisions, he would like to see them implemented throughout the Marine Corps.

“The Marines get a lot of compliments on the chillers and in the end that’s the pay-off,” said Peters. “They’re not out there drinking 115-degree water.”

“It was nice to have cold water and have it stay cool all day,” said Sgt. David M. Rath, 24, Sacramento, Calif., network administrator with the 15th MEU(SOC).

MCCS, Semper Fit sponsor ‘Here’s to your Health Fair’

By Lance Cpl.
Kristopher S. Haloj

PAO, MCAS Miramar

Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit division sponsored a fair in recognition of National Health and Fitness Month, May 24, in front of the Semper Fit Fitness and Sports Center.

Marines, Sailors, and civilians from Miramar gathered on the sports field to take part in the “Here’s to your Health Fair” which began at 11 a.m. and concluded at 3 p.m.

The clouds cast a dark shadow over Miramar that Wednesday, but that didn’t stop people from checking out the dozen or so booths.

At every turn something new and interesting stared attendees in the face.

In one corner of the field stood a rock-



photo by Dave Furlong

(Left) Marines from various squadrons battled it out during a tug-of-war competition at the “Here’s to your Health Fair,” May 24, in front of the Semper Fit Fitness and Sports Center here. When all was said and done, the Marine Air Logistics Squadron 11 “Hammers” took first place. (Bottom) In anticipation for the start of the tug-of-war competition, Marines traditionally “kiss the ground” waiting for the word “go” to start the fierce rope pulling. (Right) Event goers scaled a rock-climbing wall. More than 400 people attended the fair which featured a myriad of events ranging from healthy eating tips to bone marrow registration. (Far right) Lance Cpl. Christopher Bradford, orders clerk for Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, donates a small sample of blood. The sample was taken to have his iron levels checked before he donated an entire pint.



photo by Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

climbing wall for event goers to test their strength and skill. At the opposite end of the field dozens of Marines battled in a tug-of-war competition. At the center of it all a Cardio Kickbox Class worked up a sweat.

Throughout the midway of tents with a host of health related topics offered everything from free pizza to the opportunity to donate blood. National Player of the week and Padres Third baseman Phil Nevin was on hand, accompanied by pitching coach Greg Booker. Everything at the fair was free including a variety of healthy dishes supplied by local food vendors. More than a handful of patrons received a free stimulating massage courtesy of MCCS. Most people thought the bread was a nice touch, but felt there was more to the fair.

“The freebies are great, but I really like the way they got the blood drive out here and the bone marrow registration,” said Carl Victor, La Jolla resident. “I think they’ve done a really great job with this fair. The booths are loaded with great health tips and information.”

According to Lynn Sanchez, fitness director here, the event was a success.

“We planned on 300 to 400 people attending, but more than 400 people actually attended. It was a huge success, and we’ve received a lot of good feedback from spectators,” Sanchez said.

Those who missed out on the event, need not worry, the fair is an annual event. But making the event bi-annual is under consideration, according to Sanchez.



photo by Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj



photo by Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

Off duty— IronMan a milestone for base

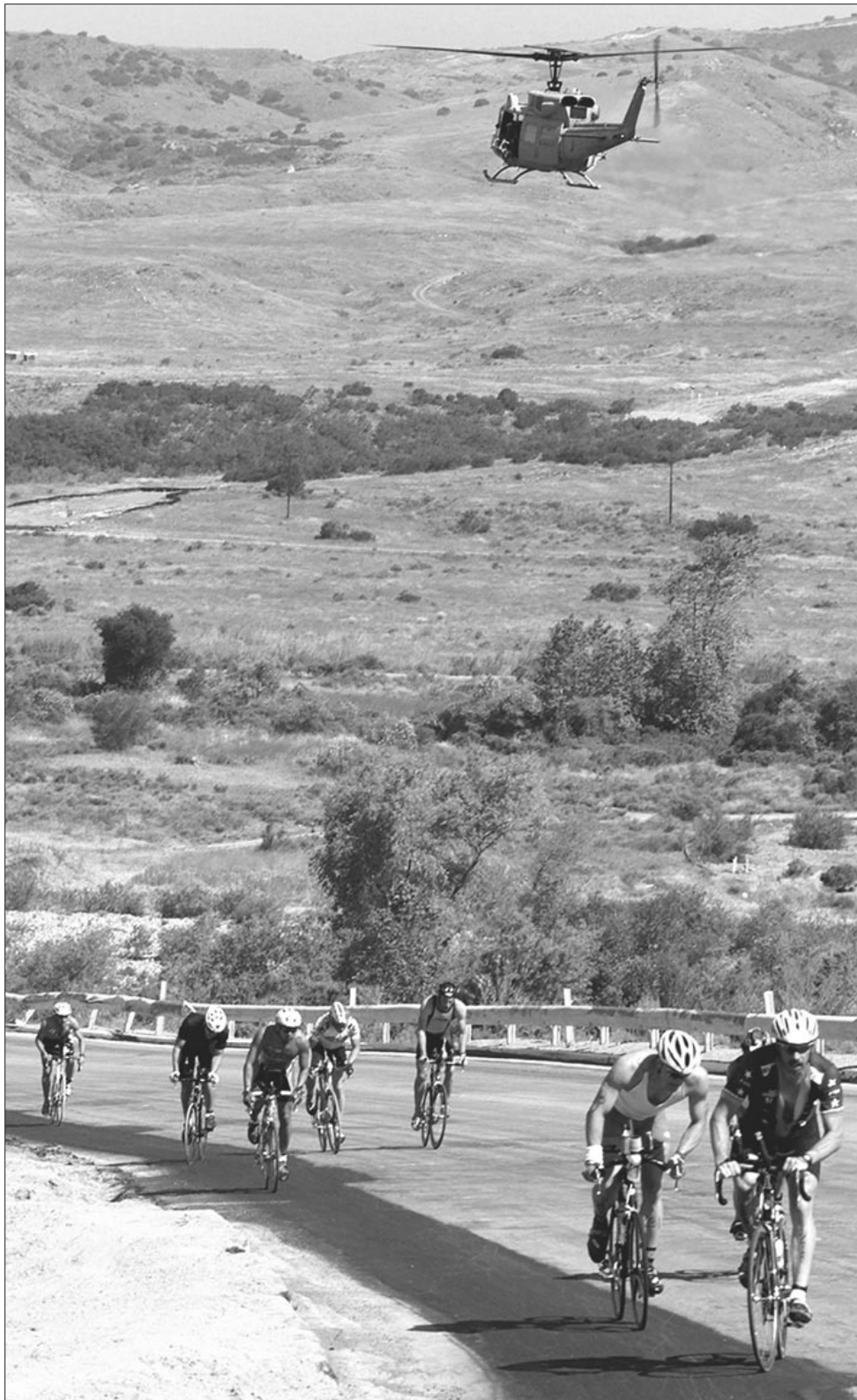


photo by John Raifsnider

Some of the more than 1,500 bicycle riders in the Isuzu IronMan California get a quick fly-over by a Marine Corps UH-1 helicopter on San Mateo Hill Saturday.

Worldwide media exposure, sponsorship gains affirm Pendleton's reputation as a host for 'big-time' events

by Staff Sgt. Stephen Gude

1 Marine Expeditionary Force

Camp Pendleton has hit the big time. That's the consensus of Marine Corps Community Services officials who are gauging the impact of Saturday's Isuzu IronMan California triathlon in financial and social terms.

The event also served as a preview of what worldwide media exposure is like — with more than 140 press credentials issued for the event, including sports television giant ESPN, which will air the event in about two weeks, according to the network.

"This event has opened up lots of sponsorship opportunities for participants in the Semper Fit programs here," said Pat Heath, the director of marketing at MCCS. "As far as the final impact, we'll see, but it really places us on the map as far as sponsorship of the series in the future goes, and with the worldwide media exposure the triathlon got, other benefits to the base will be measured in time." On- and off-base impact will also be measured in dollars. Although she had no specific numbers, Heath said the financial impact will be positive.

"The revenue we generate helps keep access to our beaches free, support our fitness centers and allows us to provide the services we do to family members and Marines," she said.

Off-base, athletes and their families will go home talking about what they saw at Camp Pendleton and in surrounding communities, Heath said. The IronMan at Camp Pendleton seemed to be an idea whose time had come, Heath said.

"Where else can you go to do something like (the Ironman) other than Camp Pendleton?" she said. "There seems to be a perfect match between the Ironman and Camp Pendleton — the perfect venue, the

fitness lifestyle both promote, and it was also an opportunity for us to show what we're all about, that our program here is organized and disciplined enough to put this on successfully."

"I've thoroughly enjoyed being here," said Matthew Augustine, of Costa Mesa, who watched a friend compete in the triathlon. "This base is magnificent, and I didn't know so much stuff was here. It's like a city within itself."

"One athlete told me the opportunity to be aboard the base is just as exciting as being in the event," Heath said. The IronMan at Camp Pendleton probably isn't a one-shot deal. There were concerns about traffic, and a half-mile backup on Interstate 5 entering the base might be to blame for nearly 300 athletes not making the race.

Despite the traffic, Heath said there was nothing to indicate the event had insurmountable problems. Indeed, for a first-time event, it was extremely smooth, she said. "The IronMan people have dotted the I's and crossed the T's."

"They've created relationships with units aboard the base that will do nothing but benefit all of us in running this event again. We wouldn't allow this to be anything other than a positive event. That's why we're looking at a partnership. We're reviewing and signing another contract with Ironman. They're thrilled to be able to do this," Heath added.

Regarding traffic or any other complaints, Heath said MCCS wants to hear from its patrons. "We want to hear from people who have complaints," she said. "We want to know how this impacted them." Heath cited the two rules of customer service: No. 1, the customer is always right; No. 2, refer to number one.

The fact that IronMan was held at the base indicates how far Morale, Welfare and Recreation has come since it consolidated itself into MCCS, Heath said. She has worked with MWR/MCCS at Camp Pendleton since November 1986, and said an event like the IronMan indicates MCCS's new approach to business. "When you look at what MCCS does today, compared to 10 or 11 years ago, and how we've been proactive at getting Marines, sailors and their families what they want on their base, this sort of thing became inevitable," Heath said. "We continue to research and evaluate ways to be there for our patrons."

This type of work is something the MCCS employees enjoy doing, Heath said. "It's challenging to do what we do — generate revenue to foster programs on the base, sell things in our stores geared to the income of our Marines, and respond to requests for improvements in their facilities. Col. (Michael) Smith (MCCS director) has brought us into a modern marketing approach to business, but with a strong compassion and appreciation for Marines and their lifestyles.

"We really like what we do," Heath continued, "and we hope it shows."

MCM,
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this October.

Each command visited by the team will receive a proportioned amount of bib numbers, which will then be entered into a lottery system. The MCM staff will be set up in the entrance lobby at Exchanges so that any authorized patron will be able to fill out a raffle ticket, and have a chance to get a bib number. Drawings will be held at the end of the day.

The installations scheduled to be visited are:

MCAS Miramar, CA, Friday, June 2; MCRD San Diego, CA, Saturday, June 3; MCB Camp Pendleton, CA, Sunday, June 4; MCAS Yuma, AZ, Tuesday, June 6; MCAGCC 29 Palms, CA, Wednesday, June 7; MCLB Barstow, CA, Thursday, June 8; MCBH Kaneohe Bay, HI, Friday, June 23; MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Sunday, June 25; Henderson Hall, HQMC, Arlington, VA, Friday, July 7; and MCB Quantico, VA, Friday July 14.

The chosen ticket-holders will be able to fill out the application for the race, according to Nealis. “All they have to do is mail in the application, along with the winning ticket and entry fee to the Marine Corps Marathon office,” Nealis said. In addition to having an opportunity to participate in the 25th Marine Corps Marathon, Exchange patrons will be able to see, sample and purchase merchandise from some of the Marathon’s sponsors like Fiji Water, Ulitima Replenisher, and Brooks Sports.

“This premier tour will give our Marines another opportunity to enter the Marine Corps Marathon while showcasing the Marathon itself, its valued sponsors, and our Marine Corps Exchanges throughout our Corps,” said Brigadier General Leif H. Hendrickson, commanding general of Marine Corps Base Quantico where the Marine Corps Marathon is home-based. He went on to say that it would also give installations an opportunity to showcase fitness activities at their respective installations. “I hope this premier tour will become an annual event,” he concluded.

For more information call Jennifer Robinson, MCM Public Relations Coordinator, at (703) 784-2113 DSN 278.

Vets,
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in the ceremony.

On June 6, there will be a military parade. Organizers bill it as the largest military parade in America in 40 years. Active and reserve component soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen will march in the parade.

There will be an aerial review of modern and possibly vintage aircraft, Cragin said. The parade starts at 10 a.m. on Poydras Street.

Immediately after the parade is the grand opening celebration at the New Orleans Arena. A total of 15,000 veterans and their families will attend the sold-out event. Ambrose will deliver the keynote address and Defense Secretary William S. Cohen will speak to the veterans. Film director Steven Spielberg and actor Tom Hanks are among the scheduled participants. NBC television newsman Tom Brokaw will host the event, and military bands and ceremonial units will participate.

Cragin called DoD involvement in the event appropriate. He said the U.S. military carries on the World War II veterans’ heri-

tage of bravery and dedication.

“[The military has learned the] lessons of putting country above self and of understanding teamwork is the way to accomplish missions,” Cragin said. “The celebration in New Orleans with the opening of the D-Day Museum is really an opportunity for us to discuss with a larger audience of Americans those contributions and the legacy that comes from the greatest generation.”

He said it is particularly appropriate that this museum is located in New Orleans. The city was the home of Andrew Jackson Higgins, the inventor of the Higgins boat. His company built 20,000 of the landing craft and made the Allied amphibious invasions of World War II possible.

“This is the landing craft personnel boats that essentially got everybody to shore during the invasions,” Cragin said. “Gen. Dwight Eisenhower said they really changed the whole concept of warfare, because you

really could come ashore with these amphibious boats and conduct very aggressive operations.”

The National D-Day Museum is at 945 Magazine St. For more information, go to www.ddaymuseum.org.

DoD,
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formation automatically. It will also allow maintenance personnel to replace parts based on condition rather than time in service, he noted.v Another project involves adapting propellers on Navy P-3 aircraft to switch to an electronic system from an electromechanical one. Propeller maintenance costs are expected to drop from over \$20 per flight to less than \$4 per flight.

Defense officials also are working on adapting the flight computer used on the Sikorsky S-92 commuter helicopter for use

in the military’s UH-60. “Your maintenance costs go way down,” Mirsky said. “Your reliability goes way up. It weighs less and uses less power.”

New communications systems components for C-17 transports, processors and software for F/A-18C/D fighters, electronic display units for F-16 fighters and other projects will reduce parts obsolescence as well as spare parts and software maintenance costs. They will also reduce unnecessary replacements, testing time and effort, Mirsky said. He said DoD solicits proposals from contractors, and the services then evaluate and rank the proposals. The fiscal 2001 budget request includes \$51.9 million for the initiative — \$9.9 million for the Army, \$12.5 million for the Navy, \$19.9 million for the Air Force and \$9.6 million for the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

For more information about COSSI, visit www.acq.osd.mil/es/dut on the Web.

Community Events

New vehicle storage lot opens

MCCS has opened a new vehicle storage lot just east of the Auto Hobby Shop. The lot is open to all active duty, prioritized according to (1) living on base; (2) working on base; and (3) all other active duty.

Everyone on the current waiting list will be provided a spot in the new lot; all others interested in a spot should visit the Outdoor Adventure Center.

Hours are 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, and 1 – 5 p.m. on Sunday. Call 577-4150. Fees range from \$20 – 35 per month, based on the size of the item stored.

Summer concerts are in

Enjoy the sounds of “City Rhythm” — R&B music with a jazz flavor! Bring a blanket and a picnic dinner for this live, outdoor concert. It’s happening June 20, 6 – 7:30 p.m. at Mills Park, and it’s free! The Single Ma-

rine Program will be serving snacks at a minimal cost. Look for information on more free outdoor concerts, scheduled for July 25, Aug. 8 and Aug. 25.

Entertainment tickets – summer prices are out

Among the bargains you’ll find at Entertainment Tickets are tickets to those summer delights — the water parks! ET can fix you up with discounts at Hurricane Harbor, Raging Waters, Soak City, Wave, Wet & Wild and Wild Rivers.

Summer ticket prices are also available for Disneyland, Sea World, Universal Studios Hollywood and Six Flags Magic Mountain (look for a separate announcement).

Pick up the red and yellow Summer 2000 Price Information brochure from Entertainment Tickets, and start planning your summer fun! They’re in Building 2524, or call 577-4141.

Baby Boot Camp invites new and expectant parents

Couples are invited to attend Baby Boot Camp on the fourth Wednesday and Thursday of each month. For more information, call 577-9812.

Area 51 continues Ladies Night

Every Wednesday, ladies can enjoy a complimentary Parrot Ice, snacks and — new! — free pool from 8-10 p.m. Enjoy the disc jockey every Saturday night.

Great Escape more than a name

Pick up the June calendar from The Great Escape. Their plans include trips to Magic Mountain June 3, Knott’s Berry Farm June 4, the Del Mar Fair June 17 and La Jolla

Shores June 24.

There’s a Barracks Bash, a 5K run, a watermelon eating challenge and more in your future. Call 577-6171 for details.

Kayak Mission Bay

Outdoor Adventure Center has planned two kayaking tours to Mission Bay on June 3, at either 9 or 11 a.m. They have the guides, life jackets, paddles and even the kayaks! The fee is \$1 for active duty personnel and \$2 for others. All skill levels are welcome, but space is limited; call 577-4150 for details.

Market yourself for a second career

If you have five or fewer years left in the military, this is the lecture to attend! Learn about your competition in finding a civilian job, perceptions many civilian employers have about former military personnel, how to search, how to network, how to negotiate your salary and benefits and more. Senior NCOs and officers and their spouses are invited to attend this free lecture, June 2 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the Miramar Officers’ Club. Call 577-8965.

Wake up and work out!

The Semper Fit Fitness & Sports Center (Main Gym) now opens at 4:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. The Monday-Wednesday-Friday early group exercise classes now begin at 5:30 a.m. instead of 5:45.

Get together to get in shape

Group exercise classes include Cardio-Kickboxing, Muscle Challenge, Super Step, Cardio Challenge, Senior Fit, Ab Blaster, Yoga, Kid Fit, Butts & Gutts, Cardio Interval and Aero-Sculpt. All aerobics classes are free. Yoga classes are \$5 per class or \$30 for eight classes. For a complete class schedule and facility hours, call 577-4129.



Free Movies

- **Today:** *Rules of Engagement (R)*, 6:30 p.m.; *High Fidelity (R)*, 8:45 p.m.
- **Saturday:** *Return to Me (PG)*, 6:30 p.m.; *Here on Earth (PG-13)*, 8:45 p.m.
- **Sunday:** *Snow Day (PG)*, 1 p.m.; *Romeo Must Die (R)* 6:30 p.m.
- **Monday:** *closed*
- **Tuesday:** *closed*
- **Wednesday:** *Keeping the Faith (PG-13)*, 6:30 p.m.
- **Thursday:** *The Road to El Dorado (PG)*, 1:00 p.m.; *Return to Me (PG)*, 6:30 p.m.



photo by Cpl. Carolyn S. Sittig

Local San Diegans admire a vintage TO-1 “Shooting Star” during the opening of the Flying Leatherneck Museum here, May 25. The TO-1 was a post World War II jet used to train fighter pilots for the F-9-2 “Panther.” It was also the Marine Corps first jet.

Museum,
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the library, offices and a restoration facility.

This much-anticipated event was a long-time in coming for some of the individuals involved in coordination and planning of the museum. Col. Patricia Williams, Mobilization Training Unit California officer-in-charge, says she is very excited to have the museum open after waiting more than a year for it to open.

Much of the year was spent transitioning museum contents from the former Marine Corps Air Station El Toro to Miramar. Once the museum exhibits and aircraft were here, the exhibit items had to be cleaned and the aircraft restored.

Trailers were brought in to hold the exhibits and the gift shop, and concrete slabs were put in behind the trailers for the aircraft to rest on.

Now that the museum is open, it will serve as a way to educate the public and service members about the past (century), said Williams. In doing this, the museum will serve as a link between today’s generation, who were not alive during some of the major conflicts and wars of the past, with memories and pieces of those times.

“The museum preserves heritage, history, achievements and failures, so the public and Marines can learn from them and appreciate the achievements and those before them,” said Tom O’Hara, museum curator.

For museum hours or volunteer information, call 577-4026.